

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph at page 9, lines 15-28, with the following amended paragraph:

Then, using the design problem formed by the method 100, a network designed technique may be applied to the problem. Figure 7 illustrates an exemplary design in which interconnect devices 82, 84 and 86 may be used to carry the flow requirements 80 for the design problem. A design technique may be applied to any number of design problems formed by the present invention. Thus, in one aspect, the present invention facilitates evaluation of interconnect fabric design techniques that may be under development or otherwise in need of evaluation. Particular examples of design techniques are described in copending U.S. Application No. 09/707,227, filed November 16, 2000 and U.S. Application No. 10/027,564, No. _____, entitled, "Designing Interconnect Fabrics," and filed December 19, 2001, and which is continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/707,227, the contents of both of which are hereby incorporated by reference. It will be apparent, however, that other uses may be made of a design problem formed by the present invention.

Please replace paragraph at page 12, lines 12-18, with the following amended paragraph:

In a next pass through the step 208, flow requirements 278 and 280 may be generated for the globally-connected node 272. For example, for each pass through the method 100 in step 208 for the globally-connected node 272, the terminal nodes 20-26 and 262 ~~[[2526]]~~ -266 may be selected in step 208 according to a sequence until at least one flow has been formed between each ~~terminal source~~ node 20-26 ~~10-16~~ and 262-266 ~~256-260~~ and the globally-connected element 272 ~~270~~. Thus, the step 208 may be repeated for each globally-connected element in the design problem.